

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 04123

ROME FOR AMBASSADOR BENNETT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: US, NATO, NAC
SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR WASHINGTON NATO SUMMIT

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1. FRENCH PERMREP TINE TOLD CHARGE APRIL 21 THAT HE BELIEVED PARIS WOULD HAVE AT LEAST TWO PROBLEMS WITH SUMMIT PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY US AND SYG LUNS (USNATO 4019 NOTAL)--NUMBERS AT RESTRICTED SESSION AND COMMUNIQUE. REGARDING THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AT RESTRICTED SESSIONS, HE SAID IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO RESTRICT NUMBERS IN THE WAY US ENVISAGED BECAUSE OF NEED FOR NOTETAKERS. HE BELIEVED OTHER DELEGATIONS WOULD SHARE THESE CONCERNS.
 2. INDEED, DISCUSSION WITH DUTCH DCM BUWALDA REVEALED SIMILAR CONCERNS ON THEIR PART, AND SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL VAN CAMPEN ALSO COMMENTED HE DOUBTED ALLIES WOULD ACCEPT TO RESTRICT SESSIONS TO THE EXTENT US PROPOSED. DUTCH ALSO NOTED THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT CONCEPT OF LUNCH ON FIRST DAY EXCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTERS, ARGUING THAT DUTCH "CONSTITUTION" REQUIRED PRESENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER

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DURING FOREIGN POLICY DISCUSSIONS.

3. WITH REGARD TO FIRST DAY'S LUNCH, TINE, IN RUNNING DOWN HIS UNDERSTANDING OF US SCENARIO, SAID HE ASSUMED LUNCH WOULD BE "AT 15." CHARGE ANSWERED BY REPEATING VERBATIM THE US "PRELIMINARY PREFERENCE" THAT LUNCH "IS TO BE RESTRICTED TO HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERN-

MENT PLUS THE SECRETARY GENERAL." IN RESPONSE TO TINE'S NEXT QUESTION, CHARGE ADDED US PRELIMINARY PREFERENCE WAS THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD JOIN THIS RESTRICTED GROUP DURING THE AFTERNOON. TINE MADE NO FURTHER COMMENT ON THESE TWO POINTS.

4. SECOND PROBLEM FRENCH FORESAW, TINE SAID, WAS MORE FUNDAMENTAL AND CONCERNED CONCLUDING DOCUMENTS. FRENCH WANTED TWO COMMUNIQUEES, ONE COVERING LTDP, AND ANOTHER FOR SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AT 15. FRENCH DID NOT HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH MEETING FIRST AT 15, THEN AT 14 OR 13, AND CONCLUDING AGAIN AT 15. BUT, HE SAID, PARIS WAS QUITE FIRM ABOUT THE NEED FOR TWO SEPARATE DOCUMENTS.

5. CHARGE SAID HE WOULD PASS THIS ON. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE CALLED TINE'S ATTENTION TO SEVERAL PREVIOUS NAC COMMUNIQUEES IN WHICH ALLOWANCE WAS MADE FOR FACT THAT PORTION OF MEETING CONCERNED ONLY THE 14. BOTH TINE AND CHARGE AGREED THERE WAS NO VALUE IN PURSUING ISSUE FURTHER AT THIS TIME, BUT TINE MADE IT CLEAR THIS WOULD BE STAND HE WOULD TAKE AT THE PRIVATE MEETING ON THE SUMMIT ON APRIL 26. GLITMAN

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